

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 15, 18, 20 and 32 are amended. Claims 1-34 remain in the application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion below.

Claims 1, 15, 18 and 32 are amended to change "engaging means" to -means for engaging-, thereby adopting formal means-plus-function language.

Claims 3 and 20 are amended to recite proper antecedent basis for the engaging means.

Claims 18 and 32 are further amended to recite a computer program product including a medium having a computer program thereon operable to render a piece for a puzzle.

The examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The examiner noted the claims recite in numerous instances "engaging means", and that means-plus-function language requires the use of the word "for", as in "means for engaging...". The examiner stated that by using the term "means" without the requisite "for", it is not clear whether applicant is intending to invoke the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 6, and required clarification. Accordingly, claims 1, 15, 18 and 32 are amended to change "engaging means" to -means for engaging-. Claims 3 and 20 are amended to recite proper antecedent basis for the engaging means. Applicant believes that these amendments overcome this rejection.

The examiner rejected claims 18-34 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to a computer program, non-statutory subject matter. The examiner noted that computer programs themselves, not being fixed in a tangible medium, are not within the four enumerated categories of patentable subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter).

Independent claims 18 and 32 are amended to recite a computer program product including a tangible, physical medium having a computer program thereon operable to render a piece for a puzzle. Therefore, claims 18 and 32 are now drawn to statutory subject matter. Since claims 19-31, 33 and 34 are dependent from claims 18 and 32, applicant submits that all of claims 18-34 overcome the rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the invention claimed in the present application is allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-34 at an early date are respectfully requested.

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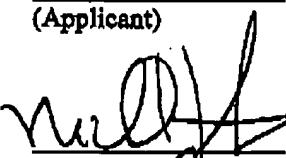
If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment or anticipates finally rejecting any claim of the present application, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Queen
(Applicant)

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By:



Michael G. Johnston
Registration No. 38,194
Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
P.O. Box 13706
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199

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